

The P2 Corner

Pay Yourself First

The standard rule for saving money is “pay yourself first.” Advisors tell us that approximately 10% of each paycheck should go into savings even before we pay bills, buy food, or spend money on entertainment. What works for finances works for material and business processes as well.

Everyone and every business ends up with left over materials. These materials might be product that was purchased but is now off-spec because of age. They might be by-products of a process. Excess materials might be the solutions that have been used for cleaning or other processes but that do not actually go into the finished product. Some of these materials are hazardous; nearly all are unsightly or create nuisances.

There are two times when businesses traditionally make decisions about these materials. One decision is how and where to store them. The second is when it comes time to dispose of them.

Storage requires that the materials be kept dry and safe. The storage site should have some type of fire suppressing capability. It also needs to contain the material safely in case of a leak or an accident. The more hazardous the material, the more cost is involved in making the storage site secure and safe for the health and safety of your workers. In many cases, materials must be segregated from each other to prevent chemical reactions caused by mixing them.

Disposal can involve costs of permits, special packaging and containment, and special transportation. Businesses often have to receive permits to dispose of the materials. The best choice might be to contract with a hazardous waste disposal business to remove and handle the waste. The Lincoln landfill has banned many hazardous materials and other types of solid wastes. Therefore, the material often has to be transported to a special facility, adding to the costs.

The costs in money and time and training involved in storing and disposing of hazardous materials do not include the costs of purchasing the materials. While it cannot be said that purchasing hazardous materials always cost more than less hazardous and toxic materials, however, many times they do. Certainly purchasing less hazardous and toxic materials reduces many costs and risks.

When owners buy, use, and store less hazardous and toxic materials, they pay themselves first. That’s wise savings, and it’s good business.



Visual Pollution

There is a hidden side to pollution: the visual. When your customers or potential customers visit or drive past your business what they see determines how they see your business. If they see 55-gallon drums of waste or litter, they will assume your business is wasteful. They will assume you do not care about the beauty or the safety of your community.



On the other hand, if they see no waste or see that your business looks clean and neat, they will assume you care. They will know you are concerned about safety. They will know that you are interested in making your business more attractive and that you are dedicated to protecting land values: your own and theirs.



Business for Environmental Leadership

E. J. SCHUMAKER, GRANT COORDINATOR

Business for Environmental Leadership (BEL) is a volunteer program made up of businesses in Lincoln and Lancaster County that have made a commitment to protecting and preserving the environment for future generations. This program stresses a “business-to-business” mentoring approach that integrates pollution prevention and energy resource conservation. Here are quotes from current members about the importance of becoming a BEL member.

It's a very positive quality program designed for small business to educate and provide technical assistance in order to comply with our environmental regulations.

Steve Hatten, Paragon

I believe in the organization or I would not belong. BEL is helpful to the community and creates environmental awareness without pressure of a regulatory body. Minds are like a parachute, they only function when they are open.

JW Ennis, Bio Environmental Engineering

I like to maintain a relationship with BEL because it is mutually beneficial and I like to be part of the environmental community.

Chris Boe, Husker Concrete

BEL got me motivated to do more recycling and be more aware of environmental ideas with education on what changes to make. There has been cost saving ideas presented through this program.

Jerry Placzek, Williamson Body Shop

I like BEL because it has raised awareness to pollution issues. We are focused on environmental responsibilities. BEL has helped us to become more aware.

Steve Rohman, Uniservice Inc.

The main reason I got involved was to stay aware of community issues and BEL has allowed us to fine tune our environmental policies.

Craig Sparks, Custom Auto Care

This is an educational process for all businesses.

Ken Westerhold, K-West Construction

BEL will have a new member orientation on Nov. 14, 2002. If you would like more information call E. J. Schumaker (402) 441-8036 or at (402) 464-5434.



You Are Not Alone

It can feel lonely in the regulatory forest. The rules often are confusing and don't always seem to make sense. Some times, it seems that new laws are growing up like weeds.

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department can help business owners, especially small business owners, understand and comply with environmental regulations. Free, confidential advice is available by calling (402) 441-8040.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) offers pollution prevention (P2) assistance for any business in Nebraska. Call (402) 471-7784 or (402) 471-8697.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) runs a Small Business Ombudsman program. This program is designed to meet the needs of small businesses that function under the guidelines of federal regulations. Call (800) 368-5888.

Nebraska is in EPA Region 7. The headquarters are in Kansas City, MO. You can contact Region 7 EPA by calling (913) 551-7768 or (913) 551-7304.

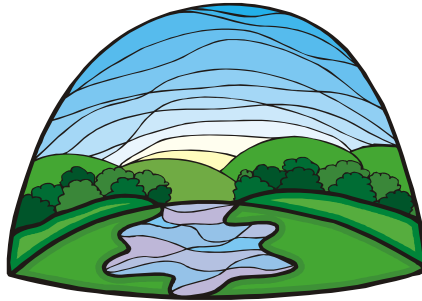
These agencies can guide you through the regulatory woods. You are not alone.



Clear Skies Legislation

MODIFIED FROM THE USEPA PRESS RELEASE OF JULY 29, 2002

The Bush Administration sent legislation to Congress to implement the President's Clear Skies initiative, an aggressive plan to cut power plant pollution by 70 percent and protect public health. The legislation was introduced by Senator Bob Smith and was introduced July 26 by Congressmen Tauzin and Barton.



rooms visits per year and 13.5 million fewer days when Americans suffer from minor respiratory symptoms, including days out of work, missed classroom days, restricted activity days and days with asthma attacks. (Under an alternative estimate, Clear Skies would deliver \$11 billion in benefits, including 7,000 avoided premature deaths annually in 2020.)

"America has made significant progress over the last 30 years in our quest for cleaner air . . . Now is the time to put those lessons to use," said President Bush. "Building upon the success of our most effective clean air program, we have crafted a new Clean Air Act for the 21st century—one that will do more to clean up emissions from power plants than ever before."

On Feb. 14 of this year President Bush announced the Clear Skies initiative, which sets strict, mandatory emissions caps for three of the most harmful air pollutants—sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogenoxides (NO_x), and mercury. Clear Skies will cut power plant emissions of these pollutants by 70 percent, eliminating 35 million more tons of these pollutants in the next decade than the current Clean Air Act (CAA).

Analytical data generated by state-of-the-art EPA computer modeling shows that nationwide reductions of these three harmful pollutants will have striking results: Every part of the country where power plants contribute significantly to air pollution, most notably, the Northeast, Southeast, and Midwest, would see vast improvements in air quality.

Clear Skies would dramatically reduce emissions of the pollutants that cause smog, acid rain, haze, and mercury and nitrogen deposition. In 2020, Clear Skies would deliver \$96 billion per year in health and visibility benefits, including preventing 12,000 premature deaths. Additional health benefits in 2020 will include 10,500 fewer hospitalizations or emergency



NO_x and SO_2 contribute to premature deaths and serious respiratory illnesses due to the fine particles and ground-level ozone (urban smog) that they create. They also cause acid rain and nitrogen deposition, which kills fish and damages forests. Mercury can have neurological effects on humans including impaired motor and cognitive skills, particularly in young children. Mercury is also suspected to cause cardiac, respiratory and immune system impairment. Humans are affected primarily by eating contaminated fish.

Clear Skies is modeled on America's most effective clean air program, the 1990 Clean Air Act's acid rain program. By using this proven, market-based approach, Clear Skies will dramatically reduce air pollution from power plants quickly and cost-effectively, keeping electricity prices affordable. Because of the nature of "cap-and-trade" programs, establishing a cap in 2010 will cause emissions reductions immediately, as companies act quickly to generate credits needed to meet the 2010 cap. Under the Acid Rain Program, emissions reductions began immediately, and exceeded the required level of reductions by approximately 25 percent.

Clear Skies will enhance American energy security by enabling the continued use of diverse fuels in generating electric power. Clear Skies will ensure that environmental goals are achieved and sustained over the long term, even while energy use increases.

Additional information about Clear Skies and region-specific information about air quality and health benefits, can be found on EPA's web site: www.epa.gov/clearskies



Talk & Tour at UNL

CARRIE HAKENKAMP, DIRECTOR, WASTE CAP OF LINCOLN

WasteCap of Lincoln, with funding from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), is hosting their first Talk & Tour at UNL's Memorial Stadium on Thursday, September 19, 2002, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The first of two grant-funded Talk & Tours will focus on the recycling program and environmental purchasing efforts at the University of Nebraska's Memorial Stadium. The half-day event will include a tour of the stadium and a presentation by Dale Ekart, UNL Recycling & Solid Waste Resource Manager. This is a great learning opportunity for golf course designers, athletic field planners, building owners, landscape/turf professionals, recycling professionals, and special events planners. They can network and learn from each other how to implement a successful recycling program for large groups of people and how to manage large streams of recyclables. Highlighted areas include the

crumb rubber playing surfaces, recycled plastic seating, and video footage of work done on the stadium after game days.

The cost of the Talk & Tour is \$5 for NICE members and \$10 for nonmembers. It is free to all WasteCap of Lincoln members. Space is not limited, however early registration is advised. For more information, please contact Carrie Hakenkamp, Director of WasteCap of Lincoln, at (402) 472-0888 or visit our website at www.wastecaplnk.org.



Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

3140 "N" Street
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<http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/health/envIRON/pollu/>

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Please circulate this issue among your staff and coworkers.

The Ethic is published quarterly by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and is distributed to Special Waste Permit holders and other businesses in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

For more information or for P2 technical assistance, call 441-8040.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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